

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter the replacement sheet of drawings (Figures 1 and 2) that is attached to this Amendment.

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 14, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2, but acknowledges that claims 3, 4, 8, 11, and 15 are directed to patentable subject matter. In order to secure a patent without further prosecution, the present Amendment cancels claims 1 and 2, and revises objected-to claim 3 to include what was previously present in claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 4, 8, 11, and 15 are now in condition for allowance.

It is noted that the portion of claim 3 (as currently amended) derive from claim 1 has been corrected in accordance with claim objection at the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action. The Objection should therefore be withdrawn.

The present Amendment retains withdrawn claims 5-7, 9, 10, 12-14, and 16-18 since they depend from the allowable claims. It is therefore respectfully requested that they be re-joined and allowed along with claims 3, 4, 8, 11, and 15.

Turning now to the objection to the Abstract on page 2 of the Office Action, the present Amendment forwards a rewritten Abstract with improved clarity. It is respectfully submitted that this objection has now been overcome.

The drawing objection, on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, is partially traversed. The Office Action comments that reference number "52" has been used to designate both a luer tip and a ringy face, but no examples of such dual-use of reference number "52" was detected during review of the application. Reference number "52" is used to designate a "luer tip" on page 10 of the application, line 23, but reference

number "53" has been used to designate a "ringy face" on page 11, line 12 and page 14, line 21.

In response to the portion of the drawing objection concerning element 631, a replacement drawing sheet that identifies this element on Figure 1 is attached to this Amendment.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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